

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/757,955

Examiner

William P. Fletcher III

Applicant(s)

LEONARD ET AL.

Art Unit

1762

-- **Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed 11/04/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-62.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. <u>various</u> | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

WPF 11/21/03
William Phillip Fletcher III
Patent Examiner, USPTO
Group Art Unit 1762

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David R. Cleveland (Reg. No. 29,524) on 11/21/03.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims...

...non-elected claims 63 – 80 have been cancelled.

...claim 1 has been amended to read:

1. (twice amended) A method for improving the uniformity of a wet coating on a substrate having a direction of motion comprising contacting the wet coating at a first position with wetted surface portions of:

- a) two or more pick-and-place devices that rotate or translate in the direction of motion, or
- b) four or more pick-and-place devices that rotate or translate counter to the direction of motion

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and re-contacting the wet coating with such wetted surface portions at positions on the substrate whose lengths along the substrate with respect to the first position are not the same.

...claim 13 has been amended to read:

13. (twice amended) A method for improving the uniformity of a wet coating on a substrate comprising contacting the coating at a first position with wetted surface portions of:

- a) three or more periodic pick-and-place devices that are not periodically related, or
- b) two or more rotating periodic pick-and-place devices having the same direction of rotation

and re-contacting the coating with such wetted surface portions at positions on the substrate that are different from the first position and not periodically related to one another with respect to their distance from the first position, wherein at least one of the pick-and-place devices comprises a roll and there is a sinusoidal speed differential between the substrate and [at least one roll] two or more rolls.

...claim 23 has been amended to read:

23. (twice amended) A method for applying a coating to a substrate having a direction of motion comprising deliberately applying to the substrate an uneven wet coating, contacting the wet coating at a first position with wetted surface portions of:

- a) two or more pick-and-place devices that rotate or translate in the direction of motion, or

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- b) four or more pick-and-place devices that rotate or translate counter to the direction of motion

and re-contacting the wet coating with such wetted surface portions at positions on the substrate whose lengths along the substrate with respect to the first position are not the same.

2. Claims 1 – 62 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The reasons for allowance of claims 6, 7, 12 – 16, 18 – 22, 31, 42, 45 – 48, and 58 are set-forth at pp. 10 – 11 of the Office action mailed 10/10/03.

Applicant's arguments, see the response, filed 11/04/03, with respect to the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd Paragraph, have been fully considered and are persuasive. These objections and rejections have been withdrawn.

With respect to claims 1 and 23, Reade neither teaches nor suggests the use of four or more pick-and-place devices. Further, the rollers of Hall do not re-contact at lengths along the substrate with respect to the first position that are not the same. Rather, the method of Hall re-contacts at the same lengths, with the transverse movement of the rollers smoothing out the imperfections transmitted down the length of the substrate [see p. 2, ll. 18 – 37 of Hall]. Consequently, the prior art neither teaches nor suggests a method employing the pick-and-place devices claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Fletcher III whose telephone number is (703) 308-7956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P. Beck can be reached on (703) 308-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

WPF 11/21/03
William P. Fletcher III
Examiner
Art Unit 1762


SHRIVE P. BECK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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